THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

LEVEL ONE

World

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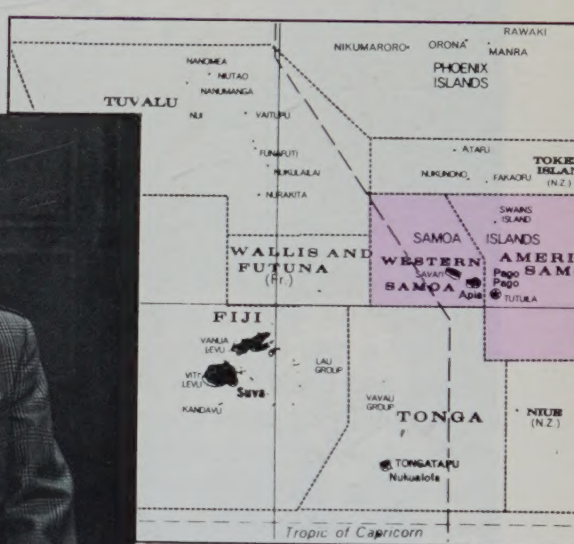
INDIA

AUSTRALIA & TASMANIA



WESTERN SAMOA
& AMERICAN SAMOA
(SOUTH PACIFIC)

President Jim Murdoch's Tours of India and the South Pacific

TRAVELS TO INDIA & THE PACIFIC

by Jim Murdoch

The first weekend of my three month journey was spent in **South India** where in an exciting three days, we were privileged to speak to over 7,000 in and around the city of Nagercoil. Two processions over half a mile long with banners waving and Endeavorers singing, let the many onlookers see hundreds of young people give witness to their faith in Christ. Nearly every church in this part of India has Christian Endeavor and it was thrilling to be with them. From there we traveled north to Madras and then into Orissa to Sambalpur, Balangir, and Bhubaneswar, where we shared fellowship with Indian leaders, B.M.S. missionaries, and others. At the evening service in Balangir, we spoke to an estimated 2,000 in the open air, since the church could not have held even half that number. We took a night train journey to Calcutta, where we stayed in the Baptist Mission House, and then flew back to Bombay to get ready to go on to Australia. Indian Christian Endeavor is growing fast under strong leadership and the fine work of the Traveling Secretaries, who are partly supported by the World's Union. All this took place before the tragic events which have since overtaken India. Pray for God's people there and praise Him for the part C.E. is playing in strengthening the churches. We are also grateful for the hospitality provided through the Y.M.C.A. and Government of Orissa Guest Houses through the good offices of the Indian President and Vice President.

Australia — To fly from Bombay's hustle and bustle to the comparative quiet of Perth, Western Australia, was indeed a great contrast. It is a beautiful city, made even more so for us by the fine weather which enhanced the many displays of flowers, and also by the wonderful welcome given to us by all the Endeavorers. On our first night we participated in a large missionary gathering attended by 1,200—mainly young people. The next day we traveled 450 miles by

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road to Esperance on the South Coast, where Betty went straight in to speak at a Ladies Fellowship Tea. This gave some idea of the distances we would have to travel in the next six weeks, which eventually added up to 8,500 miles by road, train, and plane. Those of you who have followed us around will know we had arrangements made for us by the state C.E. unions in each of the southern states and in Queensland. In the 40 days we spent in Australia, only three were free of any engagements, and most Sundays there were three or four. Betty had several opportunities to speak to ladies groups and she usually had a "spot" in the evening rallies. We even dared to sing together the first verse and chorus of "Scotland for Christ!" It is difficult in a brief report to pick out the "highlights," because every occasion was a blessed experience, and we were encouraged over and over again to know the Lord had been with us. Nearly 2,000 miles were covered in Western Australia by road and train, and the Lord Mayor of the city of Perth honored Christian Endeavor with a special civic reception to mark our visit. A fascinating train ride over the "Nullarbor" brought us to . . . .

South Australia where in 9 days we fulfilled 16 engagements. (Some of you must have been praying hard!) It began in farm country at Cleve in the Eyre Peninsula, where we shared in an inspiring weekend with "The Endeavorers." This is the fine choir many of us met and were thrilled to hear at the Centenary in Portland, Maine, in 1981. A number testified to blessing received. It concluded with a great "Family Rally" in the center of Adelaide, which brought together Endeavorers of all ages from a wide area. In between these two events, Betty spoke at women's meetings; I met with C.E. leaders, ministers and church officers; addressed rallies, church services, C.E. meetings, showed slides; and we grew larger on the lovely teas and suppers which were part of each gathering! During the tour we shook hands with thousands and had closer fellowship over a cup of tea—Aussies like tea as much as we do!! This pattern of activity was similarly followed with variations in each of the states we visited. From what we have already written, we trust you will be able to imagine the parts we have had to omit from mentioning in connection with the four areas still to come.

Tasmania reminded us of home—there is even a Ben Lomond—and this was emphasized when we stayed in Hobart with folk whose forebear, a James Murdoch by name, emigrated there in 1822! To crown it all, members of our former church (Larkhall) came to the meeting in Burnie. The final rally held in the city of Launceston fittingly concluded with a "Devon" Supper. At a lunch hour meeting in the W.E.C. Bible College, I was asked by one of the students to state in ten words what Christian Endeavor sets out to do. I answered—"To train young Christians for fuller service within the Church." What would you have said "off the cuff"?

Melbourne, **Victoria**, was our next stop, and the welcome dinner defies description. It was a tremendous occasion attended by church presidents and a moderator representing the different denominations who all paid tribute to the influence of C.E. within their churches. The National Fellowship (alumni) took us on a bus outing to the Dandeong, famous for its azaleas and rhododendrons, which were growing on the wooded slopes. At night we spoke at an enterprising youth rally where several confessed afterwards to having been deeply challenged. We were also taken to Geelong where the first society in Australia was started in 1883. We had notable meetings elsewhere in the state.

Our arrival in Sydney was heralded by the heaviest rain experienced for many years, but the "Showers of Blessing" came as well during our ministry in different parts of **New South Wales**. The state union's new bookroom is one of the best we have seen and the rally in Newcastle augured well for the next national convention to be held there in 1986. Radio interviews were very much in vogue

here, and two of them were "phone-ins" hosted by two of Australia's well-known Christian leaders, Rev. Gordon Moyes and Rev. Fred Nile. Listeners were invited to "phone-in and speak to me," and in both instances the time was extended because so many took the opportunity to do so. During another broadcast Betty was included and made her debut in speaking "over the air."

Queensland was where we spent the final days of our visit to this great continent. They claimed that the best wine had been kept to the last, but we learned in the midst of all the good-natured rivalry, to misquote the great Apostle (forgive us and the minister who put us up to it!), that "in whatever state we were, therewith to be content!" From Brisbane we were taken to the "Sunshine Coast" and to the "Gold Coast," where Betty cuddled a koala. But the sunshine on the faces of the young people attending the "International Round-up" as they came dressed to represent different countries, emphasized that our worldwide fellowship was a golden occasion. The Sunday services and the other meetings were blessed times with hearts touched and new friendships made in Christ. Our last engagement was to attend a "Meet the World President of C.E." Dinner in Brisbane Baptist Tabernacle and show some of our slides after the lovely meal.

South Pacific—to get so near to **New Zealand** and not visit would have been a great shame, especially when friends were urging us to come. It was also good to get a chance to relax a little and see something of the scenic beauty on both the north and south islands. Christian Endeavor has unfortunately waned here after having functioned effectively for many years. A missionary friend, now retired, told me that from his church in Auckland, out of a society of 120 members, 50 of them went out to either the mission field or the home ministry. However, an influx of Pacific Islanders, many of them from Samoa, has come into this area, and I had the privilege and pleasure of welcoming into the World's Christian Endeavor Union, the new National Union formed within the Pacific Islanders Church. We were also able to share with old Endeavorers and young people too, and as a result of our visit received a number of inquiries, which we hope may lead to new or revived Societies being formed. Please remember this in prayer.

Western Samoa and **American Samoa** gave us a tremendous welcome and we addressed large meetings in both countries. The missionaries who brought the Gospel to these islands and planted churches, in due time also introduced Christian Endeavor. It was, therefore, so good to see that it still flourishes in their midst; and my, what an inspiration it is to hear them sing! We should have also paid a visit to TONGA, but due to the cancellation of flight schedules we had to miss out on this which was a great disappointment. However, it was the only change we had to make in our very involved itinerary, and it did mean we were able to spend more time in Western Samoa, to their great pleasure, since they had not had such a visit within living memory. They would like to become more involved with the other Pacific Unions, thus underlining, for me anyway, the point being forcibly made at our last Board of Trustees meeting that we should encourage all the groups down there to try and come together more.

Raratonga in the Cook Islands and Tahiti were next in line so that we could get back "on track" to link up with the plane taking us over to California in order to spend a few days with C.E. in the Los Angeles area. Again the Samoans, who are to be found today in large numbers on the western seaboard of the United states, have been careful to bring with them not only their faith, but Christian Endeavor. In

(Continued on page 6)

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR AFRICAN STYLE

by Shirley M. Fretz

The National Christian Endeavor Union of Sierra Leone was organized in 1964 mainly through the efforts of the United Brethren in Christ missionaries serving there. On February 16 and 17, 1985, I had the opportunity to participate in a most interesting and rewarding experience at Tanninahun, a small village located about fifteen miles from Bumpe.

Tanninahun is not a new village to the United Brethren in Christ work. At one time a mission station was located there and it was recorded that the missionaries serving in Sierra Leone in 1925 traveled there to celebrate Christmas together.

Christian Endeavor, however, has only been a name to the people of Tanninahun. They had heard of it but didn't know anything about it. So when a letter was sent to all the United Brethren churches in Sierra Leone presenting an opportunity to learn more about Christian Endeavor and offering assistance in organizing C.E. groups in the churches, Tanninahun was one of the first churches to request assistance.

I had been informed by Pastor Lebbie that there were very few children in the congregation, but that the adults wanted help to organize an adult Christian Endeavor group. This was fine with me as it is my sincere desire to assist a church in organizing Christian Endeavor in whatever way is most helpful to them.

Saturday morning at 8 o'clock the church bell rang, indicating that the first of three one-hour sessions would soon begin. To my surprise, along with the thirty-five or so adults, there were about twenty children. Since a rally was specifically planned for the children at 3 p.m. that afternoon, they all were given a special invitation to come back at that time, and told they didn't need to stay now as this meeting was mainly for the "big people."

After a lively opening period of singing Mende choruses, the first training session began. Included was a brief history of Christian Endeavor, the purpose, structure and emblem, and an explanation of the Christian Endeavor Pledge. They then were challenged to carefully study the Pledge and pray about God's will for them when an opportunity to sign the pledge would be given during the third session.

Since I was a bit tired of standing and talking for nearly an hour, I sat while they stood and sang more beautiful Mende choruses. Then we began the second session. Emphasis was placed upon the Christian Endeavor motto, "For Christ and the Church"; the four basic principles: Open Confession of Christ, Active Service for Christ, Loyalty to Christ's Church and Fellowship with Christ's People; the responsibilities of the officers of the group; and the five basic committees and how they operate. An explanation about Christian Endeavor worldwide also was given.

A question and answer period followed this presentation. One of the first questions, "When will we get these officers and committee chairmen?" showed their deep interest and enthusiasm. They were assured this would occur at the final business session.

It was during the course of these meetings that I discovered why there are very few children present in church on Sunday morning but about twenty had appeared for this meeting.

There is a school in the village operated by another church where the United Brethren children attend if they want an education. (The United Brethren in Christ Church has no school in Tanninahun). Because the children attend school there, they also are required to attend the church that operates the school. Therefore, on Sunday mornings there are very few children attending the Tanninahun United Brethren in Christ Church.

Since so many children had come to that morning meeting, I realized this would make a great potentional Junior Christian Endeavor group. I asked the adults if any of them would be willing to serve as sponsors for a Junior Christian Endeavor group. This group, of course, would not meet on a Sunday morning. Four young men stood up to show their desire to help. So a meeting was set for 1 p.m. that afternoon to meet with them and give assistance on working with children, specifically in a Junior Christian Endeavor group.

By the time the second business sessions was over (keep in mind that all these sessions had to be translated into Mende as many present could not understand English), it was nearly 11 a.m. Some had been present since 8 a.m. so I was certain they would be tired. Also, I felt that my throat was in need of a rest. So it was decided that the third session with the adults would be held at 8 p.m. that evening.

At 1 p.m. the church bell rang again, this time to remind the four young men about the sponsor's meeting. However, soon the church was being filled by eager children. Remember, when you don't have a watch, and there is no clock in the house, and you hear the bell ring, you think it must be time to go. Much to the disappointment of the children they were told "no, it is not time yet. The next time the bell rings, then you come." So for the second time, the children left.

Seeing the eagerness of the children, I was more than ever convinced that they surely needed a Junior Christian Endeavor group in their church. So we discussed "the purpose and need of a Junior Christian Endeavor group." Also we shared some lesson material with them and then gave it to them for their use.

The court barrie (which is an open building with roof and walls only part way up) is situated very close to the United Brethren Church. As I approached the court barrie that afternoon, many children were there, anxiously waiting for the church bell to ring. However, they didn't wait for the bell. When I passed the barrie, they wanted to know if they could come now. "Yes, come," was the reply.

As we walked together, they all wanted to carry my bags. Even if I had had twenty bags, I'm sure I wouldn't have been left with one bag to carry into the church myself.

The children enjoyed this special program planned just for them. I enjoyed hearing their pronunciation of Dr. Clark's name. The singing, under the leadership of the new "sponsors" was lively. The use of locally made instruments, including tambourines made from stiff wire and pop bottle caps, certainly added to the enjoyment.

We discovered that there was not enough time in the evening session to complete all the signings of the Christian Endeavor pledges and also to hold the elections. Sessions do not move as rapidly when many of those involved neither read nor write.

How do you promise "to pray and read the Bible every day" when you are unable to read? It was necessary to explain to them that yes, they could become a member if they promised to pray and have someone read the Bible to them every day.

Even though the Bible has been translated into Mende, seldom can a Mende person read Mende unless they first have learned to read English. Then, by sounding and studying, they also have learned to read the Mende Bible. But for a person who is not familiar with the letters of the alphabet, letters arranged to form a Mende word are no more familiar to them than letters arranged to form an English word.

Also, when you cannot sign your own name, you put your "X" there, and someone else writes the name and date for you. All this consumes a great deal of time. Therefore, we were unable to finish all the business scheduled for that evening.

Immediately following the Sunday morning worship service (which was conducted in the form of a Christian Endeavor meeting), a fourth business session was held. At this time they elected their officers and committee chairmen.

An additional meeting was held with the newly elected executive members at which time their responsibilities and duties were explained. Also each was given a sheet of paper on which their duties had been printed. The entire group (now numbering thirty-seven members) was then divided up so that everyone became a member of one of the five working committees.

Finally, after a very busy weekend, with eight meetings held, the roots for a new Christian Endeavor society had been planted.

They decided to schedule their weekly Christian Endeavor meetings for Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. I told them that at one of these Thursday meetings, I would arrive, unannounced, to see how they are progressing. They responded, "Oh, just like when Jesus comes again—nobody will know exactly when He is coming but He will just come and we must be prepared." I thought this was an excellent observation.

It may be difficult for the Tanninahun Church to have a smooth operating Christian Endeavor group. It would be much easier if there were more who could read the printed lessons and topic materials. But they do have six or eight who can read, and God is with them. I trust that on the Thursday night I show up unannounced, that they will have a good program with well-prepared leaders.

I was reminded how important it will be on that final day when Jesus does return unannounced, that we be ready to meet Him. Will we have had a good life's program and be well prepared for eternity so that we will hear His "well done thou good and faithful servant." I certainly trust this will be so.

Please be much in prayer not only for the Tanninahun Christian Endeavor group and my work with the C.E. groups in other churches, but for all our churches as we separately and collectively, "trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength." This also was my prayer as we headed back to Bumpe.

Travels (from page 4)

the large Samoan church in Carson City, I spoke at a joint C.E. rally mid-week and preached on Sunday. As is their custom when they have a visiting preacher, we sojourned to the church hall to have a meal (banquet would describe it better!) and as in Samoa were the recipients of more than generous "Love-gifts."

For those who enjoy statistics: We participated in 93 meetings and spoke to at least 18,700 people; interviewed 8 times on radio and once on television. We were on 30 different planes and slept in 49 beds. Total miles we traveled came to almost 40,000, made up of 31,000 by plane, 7,00 by road, and nearly 2,000 by train. This brings our total mileage on C.E. journeys to 73,500 for 1984.

The President's Corner

by Jack R. Rothenberger

"Behold, I will make all things new . . . ." Revelation 21:5.

Do you ever have the feeling that you're trapped in a whirlwind of change? Be assured, you are not alone! Alvin Toffler describes the phenomenon in his Future Shock (Bantam Book edition p. 9).

"In the three short decades between now and the twenty-first century, millions of ordinary, psychologically normal people will face an abrupt collision with the future. Citizens of the world's richest and most technologically advanced nations, many of them, will find it increasingly painful to keep up with the incessant demand for change that characterizes our time. For them the future will arrive too soon."

You and I live in the heyday of the prophets of doom and gloom. Many people are convinced we live in very dark days with no light at the end of the tunnel and no possibility of finding light within the tunnel we call life. There are almost four billion people in the world today. Over a billion are in desperate physical need and no one can calculate the extent of spiritual need. Some say mass starvation is imminent. Our mushrooming technology has dehumanized many. Violence and crime are spiraling nearly out of control. Racial revolution threatens destruction in many places on the globe. The arms race presses us toward a nuclear holocaust. Some have gone so far as to say God is either dead or He doesn't care about us anymore. Others claim that the church has failed. So runs the message of the prophets of doom and gloom.

On the authority of the Scriptures and the history of God's dealings with His creation, the Christian believer says **no** to the prophets of doom. Renewal is not only possible, it is a reality for all who put their faith in God through the Living Christ. Christans believe the Apostle Paul when he said God alone brings renewal to people in and through Jesus Christ: "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." (II Corinthians 5:17).

The Good News of the Gospel never changes even though the bad news of the world is ever with us. God is not calling His people specifically to new ways or to new habits or patterns, but to an entirely new life. Out of that new life, new ways and new patterns of life style will emerge. It was to give us a new life that the Son of God left His place in heaven and came to earth. It was that believers in Him might have new life that He died and rose from the grave. It was to impart new life that He ascended to the right hand of the Father and sent His Holy Spirit to be a guiding presence in our lives.

This kind of renewal is not cheap. It cost God His Son on the cross at Calvary. It costs us in terms of responding to God in humility, love and trust. In the face of doom and gloom, the Christian can affirm what Paul said to the Ephesians (Ephesians 5:15-17; Phillips ver.) "Live life then with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do . . . . Make the best use of the time despite the difficulties of these days. Don't be vague but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of the Lord." The Risen Christ said in Revelation 21:5 ". . . behold, I will make all things new . . ."

My dear friends of Christian Endeavor, be assured that the Christian believer may exalt the name of Christ in every situation of life. Today, you and I need to meditate upon the meaning of Christ, the Son of God. We need to continue to ask Him to Enlarge Our Vision so that when we say the Christian Endeavor Pledge: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise . . . ." we are not merely mouthing words that sound good, but we are really expressing a faith that knows the stability of the Living Christ in a world of constant change.

I urge you to prayerfully ask and answer these questions: (1) How can I present the unchanging claims of Jesus Christ in all my activities in this changing world? (2) How can I deal with my own life problems so that my witness truly exalts the Name of the Living Lord? (3) Is my trust in God's Son and His promises real so that I honestly promise Him to do whatever He would have me do?

Join me in this prayer: "Almighty God, I need your help to strengthen my faith. I am powerless without your help. As you give me work to do, give me faith to undertake it and power to carry it through. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

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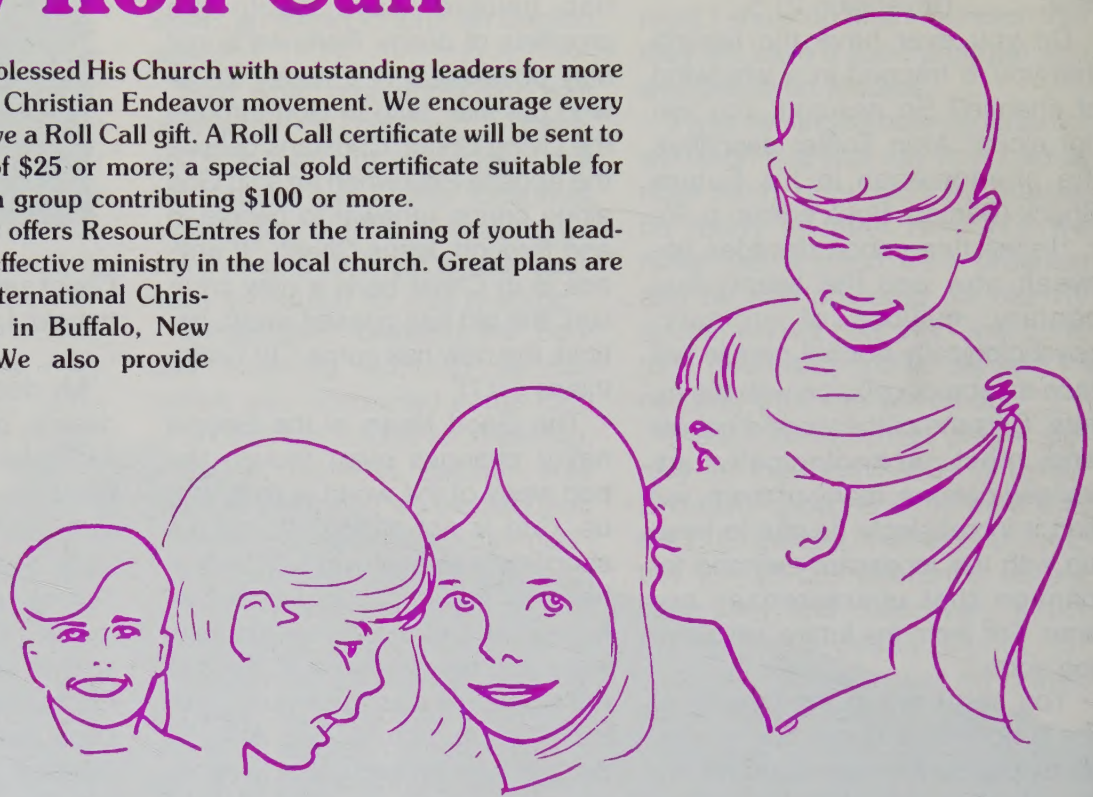
Society Roll Call

The Lord has abundantly blessed His Church with outstanding leaders for more than 100 years through the Christian Endeavor movement. We encourage every youth group or church to give a Roll Call gift. A Roll Call certificate will be sent to each group sending a gift of $25 or more; a special gold certificate suitable for framing will be sent to each group contributing $100 or more.

The International Society offers ResourCEntres for the training of youth leaders and sponsors for more effective ministry in the local church. Great plans are being made for the 59th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Buffalo, New York, July 6-10, 1987. We also provide 7,000 youth groups with three Resource Packets yearly.

The International Society of Christian Endeavor is committed to advancing the cause of Christ by assisting local churches to train young leaders in the church this year as it has since 1881.



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Our congregation has budgeted $_____for Christian Endeavor

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